

CLASSIFICATION

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

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EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

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DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 10 August 1955

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REFERENCES [REDACTED]PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]REMARKS [REDACTED]This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Koethen airfield between 16 June and 8 July:

16 June. Between 1440 and 1500, there was air activity by jet fighters. The last take-off was made at 1446. The radio trucks including one with a glass cupola began dismantling at 1500. A total of 24 jet fighters were counted on the northern edge of the landing field. Four jet fighters with their noses pointing to the south and entirely covered with tarpaulins were seen in front of the revetments in the northeastern corner of the landing field. At 1600, only one radio truck was observed in front of these revetments.

17 June. Between ~~1630~~ and ~~1730~~, no air activity was observed at the field nor were any aircraft ~~parked~~ on the dispersal area at the landing field. About 29 jet fighters were parked without any pattern in front of the hangars. Four canvas-covered jet fighters with their noses pointing toward the south were seen in front of the revetments in the northeastern corner of the landing field.

18 June. From 0800 until about 1400, the sound of jet fighters was heard from a distance. Around 1500, there seemed to be no activity on the field. No aircraft were parked in front of the hangars. All revetments were occupied by aircraft, all of which were covered with tarpaulins. Individual planes were also parked between the revetments in the eastern section of the landing field. One jet fighter was parked on the alert site at the southeastern edge of the landing field. Six camouflaged jet fighters were seen in the revetments in front of the western hangars. The motor vehicles and equipment observed on the landing field were also covered with camouflage nets. No activity was observed on the landing field. Individual EM were seen lying on the grass on the alert site. There was regular activity in the AA gun emplacement. A radio truck with a cupola, an umbrella-type antenna, and a rod antenna was parked in front of the revetments in the northeastern corner of the field.

22 June. A jet fighter took off at 1218. Subsequently, additional take-offs were made at large intervals. At 1214 and 1255 respectively, a MiG-15 [REDACTED] and a jet [REDACTED] took off

and made local flights. A total of 20 jet fighters were observed on the landing field. A group of 18 motor vehicles was seen in the southeastern hangar. Two radio trucks were parked [REDACTED].

24 June. Aircraft were still parked in and between [REDACTED] at 1300, individual aircraft [REDACTED] taxied into the [REDACTED]

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revetments in the southeastern corner of the field.

27 June. Between 1400 and 1800, there was air activity by jet fighters. There was still a sort of alert at the field. The jet fighters parked in the revetments were camouflaged and additional aircraft were seen between the revetments. It was difficult to count the number of aircraft since their contours could scarcely be seen projecting over the edges of the revetments.

28 June. There was air activity by jet fighters between 0800 and 1200.

29 June. Between 0800 1500, flying was practiced by jet fighters.

30 June. From 0815 until about 1200, there was air activity. A number of aircraft which were still camouflaged were seen between the revetments. A total of 33 jet fighters were counted on the landing field.

A MiG-15 was seen on the alert site in the southeastern corner of the landing field. One single-engine aircraft was parked south of the southeastern hangar. It was observed from a distance that a tent camp was in existence in the northeastern corner of the landing field.

7 July. There was little air activity during the morning. At nightfall, night flying was started while searchlights were in operation. Takeoff and landing practices were apparently being made. There was intensive activity by the technical personnel in front of the hangars, where the aircraft were being checked. At about 1815, a truck mounting a searchlight moved to a site 200 to 300 meters east of the eastern end of the field.

8 July. Air activity was started at 0600 and continued through the day. Sometimes, the aircraft took off and landed at large intervals. A MiG-15 or U-MiG-15 took off towing a sleeve target. Shortly afterward, take-offs were made by single jet fighters and elements of two. The aircraft departed from the field. Twelve jet fighters were parked in a N-S row south of the southeastern hangar. The aircraft noses pointed to the west. Some of the aircraft were temporarily involved in air activity. One aircraft was being refueled by a tank truck which was parked in front of the plane. About 30 jet fighters were parked near the hangars. The firing with submachine guns was heard from the firing range.

2. The following air activity and aircraft were observed between 17 June and 4 July:

17 June. At about 0800, two MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s were observed parked in front of the southeastern hangar. The aircraft were not covered with camouflage. The revetments of the western hangar were opened.

At 0900, all hangars were opened and the aircraft were pushed out of the hangars. Subsequently, maintenance work was conducted on the aircraft and some engines were being run up. When the western and southeastern hangars were opened it was observed that both hangars were fully occupied. Three EM tanks were rigged between the revetments along the eastern side of the airfield near Basendorfer Strasse.

The take-off point was not yet established. No aircraft were observed taking off.

24 June. There was activity and air activity at the field during a maneuver. Eighteen jet fighters and 3 Yak-11s were observed, including 7 in the revetments in the southeastern corner of the landing field.

The aircraft were covered with tarpaulins. There was air activity by the 3 Yak-11s which made individual take-offs. A radio truck with a telescopic mast which was not extended was seen at the take-off point.

25 June. There was the same maneuver-like occupation as on the preceding day. The jet fighters were still parked in the revetments. Individual revetments were covered with camouflage nets. The tarpaulins were removed from some aircraft. Later on, the aircraft were again covered with tarpaulins. A twin-engine aircraft was observed on the landing field. Several tank trucks which were parked behind the revetments.

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At the eastern end of the runway a radio truck (██████) was parked underground so that a telescopic mast about 4 meters high and a rod antenna about 3 meters high were seen. Another radio truck with a telescopic mast about 6 meters high was seen about 2 km. south of the western end ████████. Outside ████████ next to this radio truck ████████ a set of machine guns, and an anti-aircraft machine gun, and an anti-aircraft gun were positioned along the field border along Baasdorfer Strasse. At about 0800, the southeastern hangar was opened and it was observed that this hangar was apparently fully occupied. The other hangars remained closed. At 0805, the twin-engine aircraft took off and while flying at an altitude of about 400 meters, apparently from the north, approached the radio station which was established outside of the airfield. The approach flight was made from a large distance and it was observed that the approach course was repeatedly corrected slightly up to a distance of 1 kilometer from the radio installation. The aircraft directly approached the last kilometer. Six approaches were observed. The aircraft landed at 0835. The same plane again took off at 0840, made 8 approach flights, and landed at 0945. At 1000, the radio installation was dismantled and the second aircraft was parked on the landing field. No additional air activity was observed.

28 June. The airfield remained on the same type of status as during a maneuver. The aircraft were still parked in the revetments. The western hangar was closed. The eastern hangars were slightly open. A row of 6 jet fighters 25X1 were fitted with tarpaulins was seen in front of the southeastern hangar. The tarpaulin of one plane was torn ████████. Jet fighters were also parked in front of the northeastern hangar. Three boxcars were seen on the spur track north of the northeastern hangar. The unloading of unidentified goods was apparently under way. The previously reported 3 Yak-11s and the twin-engine aircraft were no longer seen. There was no air activity. The take-off point was not occupied, but the dug-in radio truck was still observed north of the eastern end of the runway. The telescopic mast was not extended. The Kniferest and Fishnet radar sets were not in operation.

2 July. Individual formations of 2 jet fighters were seen from a large distance.

4 July. The maneuver-like occupation at the field was terminated. The revetments were unoccupied. No air activity was observed. A total of 36 jet fighters were counted on the landing field.¹

3. No changes were observed on the radio and radar installations at the field. The Fishnet-type radar set at the southern side of the landing field has not yet been seen in operation. The antenna always pointed with its wide side in N-S direction. The dug-in radio truck north of the eastern end of the runway was not observed on 4 July. At about 1000 on 6 July, a crane was seen near the Token on Apoelensberg and several EM did assembly work. At about 1300 on the same day, the set was dismantled. At about 1200 on 16 July, however, the radar was again observed, but it was not in operation.²

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4. At about 0900 on 4 July, 10 small railroad tank cars and 2 large tank cars were shunted to the fuel dump and emptied there.
5. The VP sentries in Koethen and its vicinity had been considerably reinforced.³

6. On 17 June, 6 tank trucks [redacted] Koethen airfield toward Dessau. [redacted]

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1. [redacted] Comment. It is believed that Koethen airfield is still occupied by one fighter regiment and one reconnaissance regiment equipped with MiG-15s. Similar to other [redacted] of Germany, the aircraft at Koethen airfield [redacted] movements as during a maneuver and the motor [redacted] were camouflaged after mid-June 1955. The reported aircraft [redacted] were previously observed in Koethen. A total of 42 jet fighters were counted on the landing field.

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2. [redacted] Comment. The radio and radar installations have been observed previously at Koethen airfield.
3. [redacted] Comment. A reinforcement of the VP sentries has repeatedly been reported during the preceding period.

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